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EPSU Support for British Public Sector Strike

The European Federation of Public Service Unions (EPSU) expresses its full support for the strike action launched by the British public sector trade unions today against the changes to the pension system.

British public service workers are taking action in a week when bankers' bonuses are running at £4.5 billion and the government has announced another pay freeze and that a total of 710,000 public service jobs will go.

Millions of public service workers - mostly women, mostly low-paid - will have a 3 percent pay cut. They are asked to work six, seven or eight years longer and then they get a worse pension. They are saying enough is enough

British public sector workers are supported by a broad solidarity movement across the European Union and beyond. They all oppose the unilaterally imposed austerity measures by the majority of European governments which hurt the livelihoods of middle or low income workers and their families. Cuts in vital public services undermines the social cohesion within societies and acerbates social injustice.

EPSU urgently demands a policy change to promote sustainable development, fair taxation, investment in public services, more equality and less poverty. EPSU further demands the urgent introduction of the Financial Transaction Tax to be instituted in Europe, as a first step towards achieving a global FTT. EPSU argues for tax justice based on progressive taxation systems. Europe must abolish its tax heavens, fight corruption, tax fraud and corporate tax evasion.

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Carola Fischbach-Pyttel
EPSU General Secretary

Anne-Marie Perret
EPSU President

EPSU is the European Federation of Public Service Unions. It is the largest federation of the ETUC and comprises 8 million public service workers from over 275 trade unions; EPSU organises workers in the energy, water and waste sectors, health and social services and local and national administration, in all European countries including in the EU's Eastern Neighborhood. EPSU is the recognized regional organization of Public Services International (PSI). For more information on EPSU and our work please go to: <http://www.epsu.org>